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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/689,044	10/21/2003	Yasuhito Sekihara	033697-005	4503

21839 7590 12/08/2004

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EXAMINER

BUTLER, DOUGLAS C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3683

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/689,044

Applicant(s)

SEKIHARA, YASUHIITO

Examiner

Douglas C. Butler

Art Unit

3683

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3,4,8,9,13 and 14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-7 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. An action on the merits of claims 1-2, 5-7, 10-12 directed to Species A (Figs. 1-5) is included in this office action with claim s 3-4, 8-9, 13-14 withdrawn from consideration under 37CFR 1.142(b). Election was made with traverse. Applicant's arguments have been considered but the species are patentably distinct as claimed with the requirement made final. Note that when a generic claim is allowed, the requirement may be modified or withdrawn.

2. The IDS has been considered. Note the attached Form PTO-1449.

3. The Abstract of the Disclosure ^{should delete} legal terms such as "means" pursuant to MPEP 608.01(b).

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

There is no clear antecedent basis in the claims for "the external form of said control board" of claim 7, line 3, claim 10, line 3.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3683

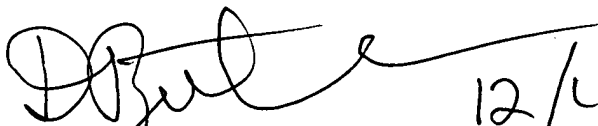
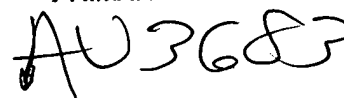
7. Claims 1-2, 5-7, 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue et al (5988767) or Iwamura et al (6132011) or Schmitt et al (5466055).

Assuming for the sake of argument that the prior art lacks the exact claimed invention in the context described in the instant specification, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one having ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains to arrange the ECU and solenoid block of each of the principal references to be integral in order to save ^{space}~~space~~ and facilitate maintenance.

Each one of the references to Inoue et al, Iwamura et al and Schmitt et al to one degree or another includes integrated components. The term "integrated" is a broad term readable on one or more elements structurally connected, i.e., the term "integrated" and variants of the term do not distinguish other than in a general, relative sense. The combination of elements that an artisan in the art selects to be integral for the purpose of saving space, time in maintenance, etc., is largely a matter of arbitrary choice arrived at through trial and error applying ordinary skill.

8. Page 1, line 4 under "Discussion of the Related Art", "bakes" should be "brakes".

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Exmr Butler at telephone number (703) 308-2575.


DOUGLAS C. BUTLER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
 12/4/04

Butler/vs
December 1, 2004